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EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 272



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BRIEFS

DENGUE FEVER SCARE--Dengue fever, a disease spread by a type of mosquito, has laid low 40 people on the popular holiday centre of Norfolk Island. An RAAF Hercules flew there late yesterday carrying two entomologists and a health inspector with insecticide and laboratory equipment to eradicate the insect. About 500 Australians are holidaying on Norfolk. The outbreak appears to be part of a resurgence of the disease which has occurred in tropical areas in the past couple of years. [Excerpts] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 12 Jan 82 p 1] Sydney--The government medical officer on Norfolk Island, Dr Alan King, said last night a virus which made about 40 people ill on the island had not been identified. He said reports calling it dengue fever had scared tourists. "We have not isolated any cases of dengue fever and are amazed and horrified by some of the reports," he said. "We think the virus may be an arbovirus which causes aches and pains, severe headaches and rashes." Dr King said these symptoms were similar to those of dengue fever. Authorities believed the virus was transmitted by mosquitoes and two Federal Health Department entomologists had begun surveying and eradicating mosquitoes. The 40 cases had been spread over the last five or six weeks and there had only been three cases in the last 10 days, Dr King said. [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 13 Jan 82 p 11]

CSO: 5400/7531

BRIEFS

THIRTEEN RABIES DEATHS--Cucuta--A total of 13 persons died of rabies in Cucuta between 1981 and this February, said Doctor Gilberto Bustamante, administrator of the Leones Clinic. The dramatic disclosure caused amazement in the various welfare centers of the capital of the Norte de Santander department and the community in general. Bustamante added that many cases were treated in the above mentioned medical center last year and that the recorded deaths were the result of carelessness on the part of the afflicted people who waited too long to ask for medical help. So far this year, three children have died. They contracted the disease from the bites of dogs in various districts of the capital. The doctor remarked that the vaccine is only 80 percent effective when administered in time, and that it is useless when the virus has already reached the brain. [By Agustin Suarez] [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 Feb 82 pp 1, 10] 8255

CSO: 5400/2102

AFRAM PLAINS AFFECTED BY SPREAD OF GUINEA WORM

Short-Term Measures

Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 22 Feb 82 p 8

[Article by Elvis D. Aryeh]

[Excerpt] The Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) has made available 1,000 packets of water stabilising drugs (Aclorin—25) to combat the spread of guinea worm at Odumasi and other affected areas in the Afram Plains.

The council has also provided 300 bags of cement for the construction of wells as a medium term measure to eradicate the disease and three Saurer trucks.

Although not deadly, guinea worm is a water-borne disease that causes painful swollen legs making the afflicted morbid and unable to walk.

The items were presented by a medical assistant to the PNDC who is also a Staff Sergeant of the People's Army to the Eastern Regional Secretary, Mr Yaw Akraasi-Sarpong, at Koforidua at the week-end.

Meanwhile, Dr Nii Ayikuma Adamafo, deputy director of Medical Services in charge of the Eastern Region had hinted that feverish preparations were underway to dispatch a medical team to the plains before the end of the week.

Dr Adamafo said apart from the drugs some herbal solutions were also being prepared by the Centre for Scientific Research Into Plant Medicine at Akuapim Mampong for the people in the area.

The long-term measure to curb the disease will be to get the people in the area good drinking source of water supply, Dr. Adamafo observed.

House-to-House Visits

Accra DAILY GRAPHIC in English 27 Feb 82 p 8

[Article by Elvis D. Aryeh]

[Excerpts] A team of doctors and para-medical staff has started an intensive house-to-house visits to treat all those affected by the recent outbreak of guinea worm at Odumasi and other areas in the Afram Plains.

The victims were given both vital intra-muscular injections and drugs including water stabilising tablets donated by the Provisional National Defence Council.

In addition, other drugs and herbal solutions made available by the head of the Epidemiology Department of the Ministry of Health were dispensed to the victims.

Led by the Deputy Director of medical Services in charge of the Eastern Region, Dr Nii Ayikuma Adamafio, the team arrived at the affected areas of the Plains on Tuesday.

According to Dr Adamafio, the treatment so far given to the patients will have visible effects after two weeks.

After this period, he indicated, there will be follow-ups by the medical team to ensure that the victims are properly healed.

Dr Adamafio stated that in the meantime an intensive public education towards the eradication of the disease had begun.

People in all affected areas are first and foremost being advised to boil and filter water meant for domestic use.

Community Appeal

Accra DAILY GRAPHIC in English 2 Mar 82 p 8

[Text] The chief and people of Eshiem near Oda have appealed to the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) to help eradicate an outbreak of guinea worm which has hit the area.

Making the appeal during the launching of the year's World Health Day in the Oda District, Nana Essuman II, chief of the area, said the only source of water for the people was infested with the worms.

As a result, both the old and the young people, especially those in primary schools, are easily affected by the disease.

Nana Essuman said the people were prepared to dig wells through communal labour if the government would provide them with technical assistance and materials.

CSO: 5400/5898

BRIEFS

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IMMUNIZATION--The inhabitants of Opax, a village near Nsawam, were on Thursday immunized against infectious diseases like yellow fever, measles and tetanus. The exercise was undertaken by the University of Ghana Medical School Students Association as part of a national health week campaign as well as their contributions towards the national Students Task Force in furtherance of the Revolution. The exercise was supervised by the Department of Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health. The students also educated the people on sanitation, communicable diseases and child immunization. According to a spokesman for the association, the students would carry on similar assignment in the rural areas of all the regions. The campaign was launched by the Director of Medical Services, Dr E. G. Beausoleil, last Monday. [Text] [Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 82 p 3]

TETANUS VACCINATION--The Society of General Medical Practitioners will as from today begin to vaccinate all students taking part in the Task Force exercises for the evacuation of cocoa, the clean-up exercise and the road habilitation programmes. The vaccination is to protect them against the dangers of infection which may be incurred during these exercises. The vaccination to start with is against Tetanus. The programme will continue as long as vaccines are available. An immunization van will start with those in the Greater Accra-Tema region. The vaccination team will visit as many district and zonal meeting groups today for the exercise. From Monday onwards, as part of their contribution members of the society will vaccinate any student in the Task Force working in the Accra-Tema area free of charge. Doctors will also treat emergency cases of all task force students free of charge provided they have their identification. This exercise is in collaboration with the Department of Immunology of the Ministry of Health. Further vaccination programme have been planned. As soon as more vaccines are available, the exercise will be extended to cover other diseases and the programme extended to other regions. [Excerpt] [Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 20 Feb 82 pp 1-2]

CONTAMINATED SALMON CANS RECALLED--The Ministry of Health yesterday announced that 36 brands of Alaskan salmon canned and packed in 1980 and 1981 have been found to be contaminated and highly injurious to health. The public is, therefore, directed to surrender all such products to the nearest health office at once. The size is 7 3/4 ounce with a two line code. The top line has five characters of which the middle three are K13. The second line has four characters. The 36 brands are GB, Hyde Park, Shop Well, Imperial Hi-Top, S and W

Fine Food, Whitneys, Prelake, Sea-Trader, Osprey, North Bay and Red Rambler. Others are Ally, Pollouk, LDBL, Faust, Fairway, Bic Silver Beauty, Pillar Rock, ICY Rock, Seasons and Sound Beauty. The rest are Grenadier, Armour, Palmero, Merrimac, Dagim, Carnation, Rubinstein, Krogers, Tulip, Season and Red Salmon. Any person who finds canned Alaskan salmon answering to the above description on display for sale should also report promptly at the nearest health office. [Text] [Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 82 pp 1, 5]

CSO: 5400/5896

BRIEFS

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ONCHOCERCIASIS--The disease of onchocerciasis (so-called river blindness) which has been affecting the Geba and Corubal region for many years could be successfully fought in the not-too-distant future. This was ascertained by our paper during a visit to the eastern part of the country, where an important team from the Public Health Directorate led by Dr Venancio Furtado has been active. Despite a paucity of means, the campaign has already had encouraging results, through spraying trees along the rivers or performing skin biopsies on affected individuals. The investigation campaign and the fight against vector flies opened on 9 February and should end at the beginning of next month. During the time our reporter spent in the region, 700 cases of onchocerciasis were found, most of them in the Cabuca community, where 200 persons, out of a total of 270 inhabitants, are affected. [Excerpt] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 20 Feb 82 p 8]

CSO: 5400/5905

BRIEFS

GASTROENTERITIS IN AURANGABAD--Aurangabad, March 1 (UNI)--Two people died of gastro-enteritis at Pataoda village in Jalna district yesterday, according to the area's medical officer. As many as 27 villagers were also suffering from the disease, which had probably been brought on by the consumption of water from the river-bed due to the acute drinking water shortage, he said. [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Mar 82 p 5]

CSO: 5400/7050

BRIEFS

CHOLERA NEAR WEST JAKARTA--Jakarta, 8 Mar (AFP)--A total of 30 people have died of cholera in the district of Serang, some 130 km (about 81 miles) west of here, it was reported today. The epidemic that broke out 3 weeks ago, quickly spread in the district where most of the people have a strong belief in superstition, Jakarta newspapers said. A health department spokesman today said he was checking on the situation. The Armed Forces Bulletin (PAB), meanwhile, reported that the local people used to gather at midnight for a mass prayer after which they walked around the district calling on God to help drive away the "Satan" that had inflicted the disease. [Text]
[Hong Kong AFP in English 0224 GMT 8 Mar 82 BK]

CSO: 5400/5891

NEW MALARIA STRAINS REPORTED TO BE DEADLY

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Mar 82 p 5

[Article by Alastair Matheson]

[Text] **NAIROBI:** Malaria, for so long the scourge of the tropics, is not only making a dramatic comeback in at least 100 countries in the Third World, but is appearing in new and deadlier forms that are resistant to ordinary anti-malarial drugs. Their victims are chiefly young children and pregnant women.

The speed at which the new strains can kill was highlighted recently by the death of the young daughter of a Ugandan Cabinet Minister. After developing high fever she was rushed to a Kampala hospital where a team of Cuban doctors tried to save her life. When they found they could not check the rapid deterioration in her condition they took her to some Russian medical colleagues. Despite desperate efforts to save her life, the Minister's daughter was dead in less than 24 hours after developing the fever.

The newer strains, which have a far higher fatality rate than the older ones, are believed

responsible for the death of one million African children. The former strain would lie dormant in the liver for years, causing recurrent bouts at intervals which would be debilitating to most victims but seldom fatal.

By contrast, the newer strains invade the red blood cells, causing total congestion in internal organs which brings about rapid death.

Experts monitoring the rapidly-escalating problem have warned the United Nations Environment Programme, which has its world headquarters here in Kenya, that these new strains of malaria could become the gravest health hazard in the Third World in the next decade.

Many scientists believe that the massive use of chemicals, including DDT, to kill crop pests as well as disease-carrying insects is responsible for the emergence of drug-resistant strains of malaria parasites. This has been denied by both World Health Organisation officials and the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

A team of American scientists is now trying to develop a vaccine to give permanent immunity against the disease,

but the work is still at an experimental stage. The vaccine is based on the use of salivary glands taken from the female malaria-carrying anopheles mosquito.

The team, working in the laboratories at New York University, does not expect to produce a vaccine that will provide immunity for all types of malaria, but hopes that it can protect people from one or two strains. This will be a step towards evolving a universal anti-malarial vaccine which will be as effective as those developed against measles and polio.

During the 1960s, WHO had hoped to completely eradicate malaria. The campaign was moderately successful; malaria ceased to be regarded as a major health hazard, and precautions were soon relaxed.

In the 1970s, however, the number of malaria victims began to rise steeply again not only in Africa but throughout the tropics. Between 1972 and 1976, the number of cases actually doubled and in 1977-78 there were 800 million infections world-wide and more than one million deaths from malaria. — P.T. Observer Service.

CSO: 5400/5893

BRIEFS

RABIES REPORTED--An outbreak of rabies has been reported in Kibwezi Division, Machakos District. Dr A.M. Munuve of the communicable diseases division in the Ministry of Health confirmed this when he called on Kibwezi D.O. Ashton Akwambi and said some cases had been fatal. Mr Akwambi warned wananchi to beware of stray dogs, adding that dog bites had increased in the division lately. He called on chiefs and their assistants to stress in at barazas the need to take people bitten by dogs to hospital immediately. The DO said the disease was also harboured by jackals and other game. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 18 Feb 82 p 5]

CSO: 5400/5887

BRIEFS

MALARIA ALERT--The Ministry of Health has issued a malaria alert. The number of reported cases increased from 38 in January to 75 by mid-February. [Excerpt]
[Port Louis ADVANCE in French 20 Feb 82 p 1]

CSO: 5400/5888

BRIEFS

TUBERCULOSIS VACCINATION IN JALAPA--Jalapa, Ver., 19 February--The headquarters of the Coordinated Services of the Public Health Department of the state announced that next 8 to 12 March the second anti-tuberculosis campaign will be implemented for about 650,000 children ranging from 1 to 4 years in age. [By Pompeyo Lobato Ortiz, correspondent] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 Feb 82 p 30-A] 8255

TLAXCALA ANTI-TYPHOID MEASURES--Tlaxcala, Tlax. (OEM)--During the first half of this coming April, the headquarters of the Coordinated Services of the Public Health Department will undertake a campaign to protect the people against typhoid. In this connection, it was announced that administration of the vaccine will be completely free of charge; and that it is very important for all persons to receive it, since it provides effective protection against typhoid fever. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Mar 82 p F-3] 8255

ANTI-POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--San Luis Potosi, SLP (EOM)--The second stage of intensive anti-polio vaccination will begin on 8 March and end on 12 March, according to an announcement by the Delegation of the Secretary of Health and Assistance. It said that the vaccination will be for children up to 4 years of age. All necessary preparations are being made to enable the children of the state to receive this second booster shot to protect them against paralysis. [Text] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 4 Mar 82 p F-3] 8255

CSO: 5400/2106

BRIEFS

INFANT MORTALITY DOWN--Infant mortality in the pediatrics ward in the Maputo Central Hospital dropped from 1,431 in 1980 to 842 in 1981, a 3.1-percent decline. Moreover, the number of children admitted to pediatrics has decreased notably because of several vaccination drives against the principal fatal diseases in our country. The Maputo Central Hospital director of pediatrics, Mario Gliz, gave this information to our reporters. The chief fatal children's diseases in pediatrics are measles, diarrhea, tuberculosis, tetanus, food poisoning, malaria, pulmonary diseases and others. According to the director of pediatrics, these diseases attack the majority of children because the mothers do not worry about taking them immediately to the hospital. They just use traditional remedies and the hospital is the last resort when the diseases are already in an advanced stage. "Last year, because of several campaigns the Ministry of Health organized for the vaccination of children, the mortality rate dropped considerably. Added to this," said Dr Mario Gliz, "is the fact that many mothers have become aware of the necessity of taking their children to the hospital where they see firsthand the treatment given their children." [Excerpts] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 20 Feb 82 p 10] 8870

MAPUTO MEASLES STATISTICS--Several days ago, Dr Oscar Monteiro, director of the Prophylaxis and Medical Examination Center, reported that the present number of cases of measles recorded weekly in the capital is 60 to 70. According to the same source, the outbreak has been going on since 1981 and so far has not been suppressed, although it is tending to decline. The outbreak's eradication necessarily stems from the increase in vaccination. Dr Oscar Monteiro therefore stressed the need to follow the respective vaccination schedule. [Text] [Beira DIARIO DE MOZAMBIQUE in Portuguese 6 Feb 82 p 14] 8870

CSO: 5400/5843

OPTIMISM ABOUT ERADICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 82 p 8

[Text]

The Provincial Health Minister, Syed Ahsan Yusuf, on Saturday observed that with the massive efforts of the Government, increased assistance of W.H.O. and dedicated services of specialists, the day is not far off when the tuberculosis would also be eradicated like smallpox.

He was inaugurating a three-day W.H.O. tuberculosis Control Re-Orientation course and seminar for Baluchistan and Sind held at the Nazimabad T.B. Centre.

He informed the delegates that the Government of Sind has assigned second priority after education to the health programme in its current A.D.P.

Two major T.B. institutes, one in Karachi and other at Kotri, were functioning with a network of T.B. clinic all over the province, he said.

About modernising T.B. clinic, the Minister said that the Government had recently provided a mass miniature radiography plant at a cost of Rs. eight lakh to the Ojha Institute Karachi where about 300 patients visit daily for treatment.

He said that the provincial Government was examining the need to establish an institute for imparting training in latest

method to the para-medical staff to make them effective in various field.

Earlier Dr. Shafi Mohammad Qureshi, Director of the Institute of Chest Diseases, Karachi, in his welcome address said that the 150-bed Karachi sanatorium with all the modern facilities to treat tuberculous patients was working effectively.

The W.H.O. representative Dr. Johan Kaleta gave a brief resume of the organisation's activity in T.B. control all over the world with increased emphasis on developing countries, including Pakistan.

He laid great emphasis on the need to re-orienting clinical approach to modern method and advanced knowledge in the field.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mohammad Iqbal T.B. Specialist from Baluchistan gave brief account of the integrated programme in Baluchistan where he said 65 treatment clinics had been established throughout the province.

About 50 doctors and members of para-medical staff both from Sind and Baluchistan are participating in the seminar.

Renowned specialists will read papers on various aspects of chest diseases, during the seminar.—APP

CSO: 5400/5893

TRUST TO BUILD 550-BED HOSPITAL

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 11 Mar 82 p 4

[Text] Lahore, March 10: Chaudhri Rehmat Ali Trust, a charitable institution headed by Mr. Justice Mohammad Siddique, a Judge of the Federal Shariat Court will construct a modern hospital, an industrial complex, a social welfare complex and a high school over an area of 255 kanals in township area.

The project will cost Rs. 25 to 40 crore and will be completed in phases.

The first phase will be started by the end of the current calendar year and will be completed in five years' time, this was stated by Dr. S. M. K. Wasti, General Secretary of the Trust, at a Press conference here today. Some other members of the Board of Trustees were also present on the occasion.

Giving details of the proposed hospital, Dr. Wasti said the hospital would consist of 550 beds, including an emergency ward and an intensive care unit.

The hospital will also have an elaborate section for the handicapped, the blind, deaf, and mentally deficient along with the social and preventive section for health education, he said.

He added that a paramedical school would also be attached with this hospital.

He said that technicians would be imparted training in various specialities, like biochemistry, radiograph and physiotherapy.

An industrial section will also be constructed. This section will generate funds for the hospital, Dr. Wasti said.--PPI

CSO: 5400/5893

ARTICLE CRITICIZES POOR CARE, HIGH CHARGES

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Mar 82 p 3

[Article by Javed Nazir]

[Text]

With the city's main hospitals on the verge of a virtual collapse, the responsibility of medical care has now partly become the business of private medical clinics. Until recently these clinics were miniscule but at the present over a dozen are already flourishing in addition to some in the take-off stage.

Some of these clinics, it would be seen, are operating rather like money-generating leviathans. Indeed, they offer an impressive array of facilities and perks that can stand comparison with those offered by five-star hotels. But what are the standards of medical treatment so bandied about? Are these commensurate with the exorbitant charges demanded with the usual extortionist instinct? Do these clinics measure up to the basic philosophy underpinning the establishment of hospitals? Why are these clinics becoming such thumping successes? Who are the people behind these clinics? Has the availability of cheap and effective medical care become a thing of the past? What repercussions would these clinics have for our lumbering and inefficient hospitals? How come these clinics already have a sizable clout and last

but not the least what does an ordinary physician with his usually modest street clinic think of them? These are but a few searing questions that demand analysis before we eventually decide to pull the warps over a clutch of private medical clinics in the city and elsewhere.

Part of our analysis will also spotlight such clinics which essentially cater for middle and lower middle class but now feel elbowed out of the race by the coming up of a few modern, sophisticated and the so-called elite medical centres with mouth-watering outfits. The people manning small-sized clinics feel exceedingly embittered by what they term as false elitism: everybody seems to want an elite doctor and naturally an elite hospital. But the quality of the medical care and facilities such as the exact number of doctors, specialists and paramedical staff actually available at a medical centre is the true yardstick of quality, they say. Simply adding big names from the medical world for attracting gullible individuals with bulging pockets is not enough.

But why are people turning over to such frightfully expensive clinics? A young doctor working in a medium-sized clinic has the answer for us: "Most of us have lost confidence in Mayo Hospital, Ganga Ram Hospital and the

similar ones for reasons now known to everyone. Even senior professors teaching at the King Edward Medical College and elsewhere seek medical care for themselves and their families in private clinics." As far as the general people are concerned the doctor said: "They first go to private clinics and find the charges too shocking and then move on to Mayo Hospital only to be frustrated with the labyrinth of procedures and the eventual fallacy of the cheap treatment. They return to the sharks in the private clinics."

Now here is a surprising fact which baffles even the least inquisitive amongst us: most of the patients admitted to Government hospitals are advised by the specialists there to move to some private clinic in the city. Why? The answer to this question is not hard to seek. The learned specialist works part-time in that particular clinic and it is part of his occupational chores to wean away patients from Government hospitals. In fact they make no bones about it and a few days back one specialist had the cheek to recommend a patient on the back of a Mayo Hospital receipt. What treason! — one might think. But this practice is now well-entrenched with the select band of specialists waltzing back and forth from one hospital to another and

amassing quite a fortune for themselves in the process.

And now to these model clinics themselves. Perhaps with the questionable reception of one or two it would be appropriate to refer them as mere landlords of rented rooms. The charges per room range from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500 and upwards in some cases. The facilities are gorgeous; hot and cold water, wall-to-wall carpets, T.V., air-conditioners and refrigerators and beautiful beds with exquisite imported blankets. The conditions in the general wards are no different as far as high rates are concerned. Most of these modern private hospitals have a group of specialists with their forbidding fees. For instance some of these specialists charge Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 15,000 per operation. Besides, patients have to pay fees every time the doctors visit them.

Overbilling is rampant and more often than not charges are arbitrary and all entreaties to reduce them are brushed aside with polite firmness. There are separate nightmarish charges for anaesthesia, food, nursing, bandages and of course medicines. Patients can buy medicines from the clinics and some time one finds the prices quite baloney with the actual price-tag either blurred or deliberately put out. And then there are

strings of lab tests for which the patients is indeed callously charged. In short, when a patient makes his exit he is handed over an incredible bill.

The modern clinics, however, do have some positive sides. These are conspicuously clean and quiet. The doctors, nurses and other staff are polite and punctual. Besides, doctors are extra-careful because lapses in a private clinic could prove fatal and tarnish its image for a long time to come.

Certain Government and big semi-Governmental organisations serve as important props for these clinics. It has been observed that fabulous dividends are made once a clinic starts providing medical cover to the employees of a big organisation.

The medical cover provided by certain leading banks to its employees has been fully exploited by some clinics. Just one model clinic is reported to have made as much as Rs. 20 lakh in the form of medical facilities to the National Bank and the UBL.

The Fatima Memorial Hospital in Shadman is perhaps one of the best organised private clinics and is fast emerging as an elite centre for paediatrics and OBN gynaecology. Set up in 1977 this private 250-bed hospital now has come a long way. There are

about 45 rooms and the charges per room varies from Rs. 80 to Rs. 450. About 15 doctors—mostly specialists—man this hospital and get their patients admitted here. Since this is a trust hospital its management claims to provide free treatment to some percentage of poor patients. The low-income patients who get free medical treatment are admitted to the wards only. Otherwise charges for a bed in the wards are Rs. 10. Some patients interviewed by the Pakistan Times said they were generally satisfied with the quality of treatment and other services. Like other model clinics in the city, Fatima Memorial Hospital is quite expensive too. Patients in private rooms did not complain of high charges. In fact, there is a long queue of patients for the rooms and one official of the hospital said there is great demand for their luxurious rooms. People reserve these rooms—price Rs. 450 per day—well in advance.

This hospital is now being further expanded and a second operation theatre is coming up before long. The expansion has been necessitated by some overcrowding here.

About the popularity of a modern clinic one doctor said: "A few years back people were wary of going to clinics and sought all care at the big hospitals, but now the trend has been reversed thanks to better conditions outside.

BRIEFS

MENTAL HEALTH PLAN--Lahore, Feb 23: Dr. Basharat Jazbi, Adviser to President on Health, on Sunday disclosed that the government was preparing a comprehensive plan for mental health, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation. An expert of the WHO will make an extensive tour of the country in the near future and submit his recommendations to the government in this connection. Dr. Jazbi was speaking at the special evening at the Fountain House here. He said the evil of mental disease should be nipped in the bud and that the volunteer and welfare agencies should supplement the efforts being made by the government to eliminate mental illness. He was of the view that special arrangements should be made for the diagnosis of mental illness in the children, adding that the children of primary schools should be checked up to ascertain their mental balance. [as published] The President's Adviser stressed the need for opening of more Fountain Houses in important cities of the country, since the one in operation at present was rendering useful services for the rehabilitation of the mentally retarded people.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 24 Feb 82 p 12]

SYMPOSIUM ON DIABETES--The first international symposium on diabetes will be held in Karachi on April 22-23 which is likely to be attended by a large number of eminent diabetologists from abroad, according to Pakistan Medical Gazette. The symposium will be organised under the joint auspices of the departments of Medicine and Biochemistry, Jinnah Post-graduate Medical Centre, Karachi in collaboration with World Health Organisation and the Diabetic Association of Pakistan. Scientists, clinicians, teachers and social workers from all over the country will participate in the symposium. The programme includes guest lectures, original presentation on the basic and clinical aspects of diabetes with particular emphasis on the education of patients and the lay public. Those interested have been advised to contact Dr M Sultan Farooqi, Secretary, Organising Committee, indicating their areas of interest. The abstract of the papers are to reach him by March 20.--APP. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 11 Mar 82 p 3]

SKIN DISEASES ON INCREASE--Karachi, March 4: The Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nasiruddin Jozegai, has said that due to rapid industrialisation, large-scale use of chemicals in industry and increasing use of perfumes and cosmetics, the incidence of skin diseases was increasing day by day. In a message on the occasion of the first National Conference on Skin Diseases which opened here this morning, the Health Minister observed that in

Pakistan, lack of knowledge of hygienic way of living among our people has further complicated the matter and worsened the situation. Although skin diseases rarely cause mortality, they were by no means rare in Pakistan, Dr. Jagezai said. He expressed the hope that the conference will focus its attention on these problems and will evolve a strategy both for the prevention and cure of skin diseases. In another message the Provincial Health Minister, Syed Ahad Yousuf said that in spite of high prevalence of skin diseases proper attention was not being paid to this. He said the Pakistan Association of Dermatologists deserve credit for organising a national conference. He hoped that the deliberations of the conference will have far-reaching consequences in the right direction. Messages were also sent by the Federal Health Secretary, Mr. A. Sami Oureshi and Lt.-Gen. (retd) W. A. Burki, President, College of Physicians and Surgeons.--APP. [Text] Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 82 p 5]

DISPENSARIES TO BE SUBSIDIZED--Faisalabad, March 3: The Punjab Administrator of Zakat Council and Secretary Social Welfare, Khan Iqbal Ahmed Khan, said that Government will subsidise the free dispensaries in the Province which extend medical facilities to poor people. Inaugurating a medical ward of Mian Mohermad Trust Hospital yesterday, he said that the assistance to such hospitals and dispensaries would range from Rs.15,000 to Rs. 1 lakh a year. He also assured this amount would be released from the Zakat Fund of the Province and added that these institutions would also be assisted from Social Welfare Funds if so required. Earlier Chairman of the Trust Mian Fazal Ahmed briefly drew attention of people on other social projects of the Trust. He said last year about 70,000 people were extended treatment in this hospital and the number was on the increase every year, he added. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 82 p 6]

FREE ASTHMA TREATMENT--Pakistan Homoeopathic Medical Council has made arrangements for free consultation of patients suffering from Asthma and Allied Chest Diseases, at 3004 Al-Falah Road, Hanif Manzil Waaali Gali Bihar Colony Lyari on every Saturday between 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Dr. G. A. Munshi, Principal, Sir Syed Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital Karachi will attend. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 12 Mar 82 p 8]

CSO: 5300/5684

GASTRO INTESTINAL DISEASE CLAIMS 22 LIVES

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Mar 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

HINOBA-AN, Negros Occidental — An outbreak of gastro intestinal diseases was reported to have already claimed the lives of 22 persons in this southernmost Negros town since the gold rush started in earnest here late December last year.

Doctors at the Insular Lumber Co. (Phils.) clinic located some 12 kms. from the panning area in Sitio Sangke, this town, said that 20 of those who were brought there for treatment died of gastro enteritis, according to Ildie B Caballero, an employee of the lumber company.

For an extensive report, in words and pictures of the gold rush, see today's *Weekend* magazine.

Caballero said the two other gastro deaths were reported by the Hinoba-an municipal health officer.

ACCORDING to Caballero, landslides, cave-ins and stabbings arising out of disputes over mining claims, have also claimed the lives of 36 others, bringing the total death count to 60.

The latest fatalities were two panners. Victorio Galicio, 17, of Villa Hermosa, Negros Occidental and a certain Arturo of Ormoc City, both of whom died in a landslide last Feb. 28 in their mining claim about seven kms. north of Sangke.

Despite the alarming frequency of accidents in the mining area and the danger posed by diseases, fortune

hunters continue to flock to Hinoba-an.

Even an attempt by municipal officials to inoculate the people searching for gold in the river at Sangke was foiled by the panners themselves who claimed that the injections would incapacitate them for a day. They said that a day's work could easily net them P300, if they were lucky.

Told to dig latrines for their use, one miner answered: "We don't have enough time to dig for gold, why waste time digging toilets!"

IN THE absence of toilets or even crude waste disposal systems in the mining area, panners are forced to use the river instead. The smell of human excreta pervades the whole area, the stink even reaching as far as the ridgeline about two hours' hike away.

With gold being sold for P85 per gram, as of mid-February, in Hinoba-an, hordes of prospectors braving falls from the roofs of overcrowded buses could not be stopped from coming. This was fueled even more by reports of new gold strikes in the Hasaan River, Barangay Asia, Sipalay, Negros Occidental and along the Bungat River about 2-1/2 kms. from the highway leading to the Oriental side of Negros where it was reported that more than 1,000 people are currently panning.

SOUTH AFRICA

EFFORTS TO CONTAIN BUBONIC PLAGUE REPORTED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 15 Mar 82 p 13

[Text] Health authorities are doing everything in their power to contain bubonic plague, the disease which ravaged Europe in the Middle Ages.

It has appeared in South Africa for the first time in two decades, claiming one life and putting another 16 Blacks in hospital in the Eastern Cape.

Last week, a 32-year-old Black man died at Coega Mission Station about 32 km from Port Elizabeth. He was apparently suffering from bubonic plague.

Dr J Bock, superintendent at Empilweni Hospital at New Brighton, said yesterday that he had nine patients with confirmed plague and seven suspects.

Of the confirmed cases, three, all adults had been confirmed clinically. The condition of one of these patients was fair, the other two, good.

Treatment

All suspects and sufferers came from the Coega Mission station. They were of both sexes and ranged in age from a year-old baby to adults. The disease responded well to modern-day treatment and the virus strain was not as severe as the European variety.

The plague, said Dr Bock, had been carried into the mission by gerbils carrying infected fleas. It was transmitted by a bite from an infected insect and reaction from a sufferer would be fairly swift.

After an incubation period of from two to five days, the patient would develop a severe fever and glands in groin or armpit would swell.

Quarantine

In the meantime, the mission station and its 80 inhabitants have been placed under strict quarantine for seven to 10 days, according to Dr Kees Meyer, head of the health services in the Uitsig Divisional Council.

He said the authorities were doing everything in their power to contain the disease.

Some 15 houses had been treated for fleas. Pets in the area were also being treated and the surrounding veld was being cleared of rodents.

CSG: 5400/5890

CONTAMINATION OF OYSTERS, MUSSELS FEARED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 13 Mar 82 p 11

[Text] Cape Town.--The Department of Health yesterday warned that oysters and mussels collected from the Natal coast are very dangerous because of cholera contamination, and appealed to licence holders and public not to gather them.

The director general of health, Dr Johan de Beer, said the possibility existed that mussels and oysters collected from the Natal coast might be sold inland.

He made an urgent appeal to all distributors, hoteliers and restaurateurs not to make supplies from this source available to the public.

If the appeal and warning were not heeded, the department would, unfortunately, be compelled to resort to stronger measures, Dr De Beer said.

"Sample tests taken at different places along the Natal coast have now shown that this form of sea life is contaminated with cholera organisms.

"In view of the fact that oysters and mussels can be consumed raw, they must therefore at present be regarded as very dangerous."

Crayfish, fish and other forms of marine life caught deep-sea were not regarded as dangerous.

However, crayfish, crab, shrimps, prawns and other crustacea collected close to shore had to be well rinsed in clean running water and be well cooked before being eaten.--Sapa.

CSO: 5400/5890

CHOLERA OUTBREAK CLOSES KACH FESTIVAL

Colombo SUN in English 9 Mar 82 p 1

[Article by Trevine Rodrigo]

[Text]

The popular Kachchativu festival, which draws hundreds of Sri Lankans and Indians to that little island, has been called off due an outbreak of cholera in the South Indian city of Rameswaram, Defence Ministry official said today.

Health authorities had warned that there was a strong likelihood of the killer disease spreading to both countries if devotees were allowed to congregate on the island to celebrate the feast of St. Anthony this week.

The decision was taken yesterday, when the Bishop of Jaffna, the priest of St. Anthony's Church, Kachchativu, the Government Agent of Jaffna and health authorities met.

Elaborate arrangements had already been made for this year's festival which was scheduled to be held on March 11.

The Sri Lankan Navy, Customs and Police had also drawn up security arrangements in view of the prevailing situation in the north and the crowds going to this once politically-disputed island.

The Kachchativu festival, in recent years, has become an important trading event with people from India and Sri Lanka bartering goods in commercial quantities.

CSO: 5400/4929

ANTI-MALARIA PROGRAM OUTLINED

Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 3 Mar 82 p 3

[Article by Mashumi Twala]

[Text]

THE introduction of more infrastructure in the rural areas will help to overcome many problems, in particular the malaria fever menace.

This was stated by the Health Inspector of the Malaria Unit, Mr. P.M. Mathews in a lecture on "The control of Malaria" to members of the Society of Science and Technology recently.

He said: "The provision of the basic infrastructure: roads, proper water supplies and others will help to reduce the density of the malaria vector."

He said this meant there would have to be a general clear spacing of housing and kraals.

He added that since agriculture required a lot of water and irrigation canals, there was no reason why this should promote the spread of the disease if the water is thoroughly managed and controlled.

Without quoting statistics, Mr. Mathews pointed out that malaria was an endemic disease in the southern part of the country.

He said that the most common of the species, called *anopheles gambiae*, was most active and feeds on both human and animal blood. "The traditional pattern of a cattle kraal situated just less than 100 yards from the home is also one of the factors that contribute to the spread of the disease, he said.

Mr. Mathews outlined the history of malaria, programme.

He said in medical terms, the malaria year begins in July until June, the following year. "This is when there is much transmission of the germs and biting activity is intense," Mr. Mathews said.

According to Mr. Mathews, with pressure being applied more and more by insecticides over the years, another equally deadly specimen of the *anopheles*, has gradually been wiped out.

Mr. Mathews said it was during the period immediately after the World War 2 that families were being exterminated by the carrier which was at

the time tough to control, until a German medical officer, Dr. Otto Maibaum, who was well known in Swaziland, introduced the widely used insecticide known as DDT, discovered during the war era.

This cure, which has since been banned for agricultural purposes, was found to be most effective in its residue, which can stick for six months.

The eradication programme, said Mr. Mathews, is mostly directed to places where not less than 10 cases have been reported. It comprises basically of the spraying method, in which health assistants go around with pumps and spray the most vital parts of a homestead.

Said Mr. Mathews: "As far as malaria is concerned, a density of more than 1 mosquito per house is considered dangerous as the carrier is attracted to human odour and the colour of the skin.

BRIEFS

TABORA RABIES OUTBREAK--Tabora Regional health officials have requested the Ministry of Health to send supplies of anti-rabies medication to fight the outbreak of rabies in Tabora. The Tabora Rural District Health Officer, Ndugu O.M. Soli told Shihata that some 32 people were attacked by the disease and were awaiting treatment. Since then another 17 people in Italikwa village and 15 in Uyui division near Tabora have been struck and have also not been treated. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 4 Mar 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/5901

NEW LUAPULA CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Mar 82 p 1

[Text]

CHOLERA has again broken out in the Luapula Province in Mwenze, Kawambwa and Nchelenge districts.

Minister of Health Mr Ben Kakoma has declared the three areas as cholera infested under the Public Health Act in the latest GOVERNMENT GAZETTE published on Friday.

The 51 death toll which Mr Kakoma informed Parliament about recently is now expected to rise.

Mr Kakoma told Parliament that so far 472 Cholera cases had been treated in the province this year with 51 deaths recorded.

The disease would have been under control had Zambia sealed its border with a neighbouring country from which the disease originated, he said.

Efforts to control the disease were being frustrated by an influx of aliens from neighbouring countries and were partly responsible for the cholera incidence in Zambia.

CSO: 5400/5899

BRIEFS

PLANT POISONING OF SHEEP--Merredin--More than 80 sheep in the Merredin district have died in the past week, possibly from plant poisoning. The deaths were on four different properties and are thought to have been caused by oxalate poisoning. However, the plant or plants responsible have not been isolated. The veterinarian at the Merredin office of the Department of Agriculture, Dr R. Jacobs, has warned farmers to check sheep regularly, particularly those grazing on stubble. He said that three plants were being considered as the cause of the deaths--saltbush, blue bush and roly polly. Samples of the plants had been sent to Perth for testing. This type of poisoning was unusual and he expected that the summer rains had had some effect on its incidence in the Merredin area. [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 23 Jan 82 p 21]

CSO: 5400/7532

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE DETECTED--The Peasant and Agricultural Affairs Ministry has mobilized all its technical organizations in Chuquisaca to combat a foot and mouth disease outbreak which up to now has affected 80 percent of the livestock in the region. Reports state that the campaign is being carried out jointly with other Chuquisaca regional organizations. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Mar 82]

CSO: 5400/2100

BRIEFS

RINDERPEST OUTBREAK--In view of the outbreak of Rinderpest epidemic in the Gazipur dairy colony in the trans Jamuna area, the east district deputy police commissioner has restricted the movement of cattle in the area without a proper certificate from an authorised government veterinary surgeon. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Mar 82 p 12]

CSO: 5400/7051

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH CAMPAIGN--A compulsory campaign against the foot and mouth disease is scheduled to start on March 3 and end on March 22, in Muhoroni Division, Kisumu District, according to a circular of the veterinary officer, Dr. N. M. Wanyama. The exercise will be conducted by two vaccination teams and Dr. Wanyama has appealed to all chiefs, their assistants and co-operative societies to ensure that vaccination crushes were in good order before inoculation date. He said that a farmer will pay two shillings per animal and called on chiefs to give the vaccination campaign maximum publicity. Meanwhile, in South Nyanza District, the pest control team has swung into action to combat the army worm outbreak, according to the regional crop rotation officer, Mr. J. K. Njeru. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 23 Feb 82 p 12]

HYDATID DISEASE--About 800,000/- is lost every year by the Athi River abattoir due to the hydatid disease, an animal disease that kills. But the Health Ministry is trying with the help of the African Medical Research Foundation, to eradicate the hydatid menace, Dr. Marcus French, a medical scientist associated with AMREF said. Dr. French is head of the Hydatid Unit in Lodwar, Turkana, whose major aim is to try to eradicate the disease in the area. Addressing students at St. Joseph's school, Kitale, he warned that affected dogs suffering from hydatid were dangerous and that the suspected ones should be killed.--KNA [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 23 Feb 82 p 10]

CSO: 5400/5892

BRIEFS

RINDERPEST REPORTED IN DUBAYY--The secretariat general of municipalities yesterday issued a circular to all municipalities prohibiting movement of any animal, especially cows and buffalos, from an emirate to another. This followed the report of the Dubai municipality about discovery of many cases of cattle plague in Al Hamria area in Dubai. The circular stressed the need for immediately reporting of such cases to the veterinary authorities so that appropriate measures can be taken to control the spread of the disease. It also prohibited import of cows and buffaloes until further notice and said that any cattle arriving during the period will be quarantined at least for 15 days. The secretariat-general advised all the municipalities not to issue any certificate for export or import of animals. The Dubai municipality meanwhile announced that its veterinary section in cooperation with the ministry of agriculture and fisheries was carrying out a vaccination campaign for cows and buffaloes. The announcement called on all citizens to cooperate and report any case of disease or deaths. It also said that the municipality had taken steps to suspend the import and export of animals. [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 25 Feb 82 p 1]

CSO: 5400/4716

BRIEFS

CAO BANG HOG EPIDEMIC--Even though the hog herds of Cao Bang Province were afflicted by a protracted epidemic for two consecutive years and suffered fairly heavy losses the herds nonetheless grew each year registering an increase of 7 percent in 1981 over the previous years. [Text] [Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 20 Feb 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/5900

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AFFECTING PARTS OF SOUTHERN PROVINCE

Lusaka DAILY MAIL in English 12 Mar 82 p 5

[Excerpt]

VILLAGERS in Monze will not accept cattle for dowry because of the outbreak of the foot and mouth disease that has hit several parts of Southern Province.

According to Banakajila ward chairman, Mr Espraim Mweemba, a meeting, which was held at chief Choongo's palace resolved that people at Nieme, Banakajila, Luyaba and Choongo should refuse to accept cattle as lobola from other areas.

Mr Mweemba said villagers in the area were concerned at the high rate their animals were dying because of unrestricted movements of cattle from villages which had virtually become disaster areas.

Although it was Tonga tradition to slaughter cattle during funerals, the ward chairman said that animals from other chiefs areas would not be welcome until the situation has improved.

He said although not all chiefs' areas were affected, the measure was aimed at protecting Chief Choongo's area from corridor and other cattle disease which were rife in the district.

Chief Choongo has also instructed his subjects not to graze their animals in the Kafue Valley because of the frequent outbreak of diseases.

The government has already received a consignment of foot and mouth disease vaccine ordered from Botswana and Kenya at a cost of K150,000.

CSO: 5400/5899

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

REPORTED RABIES OUTBREAK--Meanwhile, a rabies outbreak has been reported in the Lusaka district. [Text] [Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Mar 82 p 1]

CSO: 5400/5899

BRIEFS

WORM INVASION FIGHT--A team of pest control experts has been despatched from Nairobi to fight an army worm outbreak in Lambwe Valley in the Kanyada and Central Karachuonyo locations of South Nyanza District. The new District Commissioner, Mr Amos Bore, at a press statement appealed to farmers in affected locations not to panic over the outbreak as the government was doing everything possible to protect their crops. He appealed to farmers neighbouring affected areas to report to their chiefs and their assistants whenever they detected the worms to enable the team fight them effectively before they spread throughout in the district. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 17 Feb 82 p 4]

ARMY WORMS INVADE FARMS--Ndanai, Kipkelat and Sigor locations in Sot Division, Kericho District have been invaded by army worms, assistant agricultural officer in charge of the division Lukas Mureithi has reported. Mr Mureithi said so far the army worms have destroyed 14 acres of maize and pasture. He advised farmers to report to his office for necessary action--KNA [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 22 Feb 82 p 9]

WORMS ON THE ATTACK--Armyworms have invaded Kopanga Market in Macalder Division, South Nyanza District, on the Kenya/Tanzania border. Addressing a huge baraza at the weekend in Kopanga Market area Chief Charles Onyango said the Government is taking stringent measures to curb a possible epidemic of pest threatening the area. He urged farmers not to relax their efforts in improving food production in the area and report cases of stock theft and strange pests, so the Government could take appropriate action. He also urged them to plant more trees.--KNA [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 2 Mar 82 p 12]

CSO: 5400/5892

BRIEFS

TABASCO SIGATOKA UNDER CONTROL--Tabasco, 4 Feb--The chief of the agricultural program of SARH [Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources], Ismael Castro Gallardo, asserted today that the "black sigatoka" epidemic is under control and denied that a quarantine was declared in the region. The official admitted, however, that the fungus attacked 9,000 hectares of banana trees principally in the Teapa and Tacatalpa areas. "It is being fought with chemicals; at no time have shipments been suspended, because the epidemic is not extensive, rather there exist only isolated cases which are easily controlled." Meanwhile, the leader of the State Federation of Small Landowners, Esteban Elias Echen, lamented the precarious situation in which the producers of the fruit find themselves, as 30 years ago, Tabasco was still the biggest national producer and also used to export large quantities. The severe reduction in production is a consequence of the lack of commercial channels not offered by the government. [by Juan Ochoa Vidal] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Feb 82 p 7-D] 9678

LATE BLIGHT AFFECTING TOMATOES--A blight, known as Late Blight, is affecting 50 hectares of tomatoes in the municipalities of Emiliano Zapata, Huimanguillo, and Cunduacan, according to Mardonio Velazquez Ortegón, chief of the Plant Health Program of the SARH [Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources]. He remarked that if the blight is not checked in the next few days, the 1,500 tons of tomatoes to be harvested in that region could become infested. This would result in a loss of 400 million pesos. He explained that the Late Blight disease develops in damp climates and is characterized by spots that appear on the fruit, and that the fruit will rot completely if not attended to. The official said that fungicides are now being applied to most of the land that is ready for sowing. [By Jose Frias Cerino] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Mar 82 p 34-A] 8255

ANTI-DENGUE MEASURES--Jalapa, Ver., 2 March--Doctor Felipe Resendiz Davila, an officer of the health department of Mexico, said that, in order to prevent the dengue mosquito (the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito) from entering the country, the Secretary of Health has set up a sanitary cordon on all docks in the Gulf of Mexico. [By Jose Juís Hernandex Sosa, correspondent] [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 Mar 82 p 36-A] 8255

CSO: 5400/2105

SPODOPTERA INVASION THREATENS CORN HARVEST

Worm Invasion

Beira DIARIO DE MOZAMBIQUE in Portuguese 14 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] About 970 hectares of corn belonging to the Manica Agricultural Company is threatened by spodoptera activity.

In a 1,000-hectare area, only 30 could be sprayed with pesticide, as the TTA [Air Transport and Utility], requested to spray the entire area, discontinued the work ahead of time because during the operation enemy attacks were verified in the Chicadora region where the production unit in question is located.

As Almeida Correia, the Manica Agricultural Company agronomist, told DIARIO DE MOZAMBIQUE, "the undeveloped corn will be entirely destroyed in many areas and the full-grown corn will be infested," thereby seriously endangering production which earlier showed good prospects.

The spodoptera, which reaches a length of 2.0-3.5 centimeters, is also threatening the domestic sector and is now worrying provincial party and state organizations. They therefore consider TTA assistance imperative and urgent, for the infestation demands proper treatment by aerial spraying over a large surface.

Successful Combat

Beira DIARIO DE MOZAMBIQUE in Portuguese 6 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] The spodoptera which DIARIO DE MOZAMBIQUE reported recently destroyed more than 500 hectares of cultivated land in Manica, especially corn and tobacco, has now been effectively fought throughout the province's agricultural area.

The participation of brigades specialized in aerial and manual spraying contributed to this achievement, an activity which extended as far as state, cooperative and domestic sectors.

At present, in all areas affected, alternatives are being sought to stem the disaster caused by the spodoptera invasion.

8870

CSO: 5400/5843

BRIEFS

COFFEE RUST DETECTED--(Hermogenes Rodriguez), the delegate of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen to the State Council, has revealed that the coffee rust disease has been detected in Jalapa, Jinotega, and in the zone of San Juan Del Rio Coco, Madriz Department. (Rodriguez) complained that the National Coffee Rust Commission has not yet drafted an effective plan to prevent the coffee rust disease. [PA190304 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 82 PA]

CSO: 5400/2111

BRIEFS

BEN TRE PEST CONTROL--Since early January, nearly 10,000 hectares of winter-spring rice in a number of districts in Ben Tre Province have been seriously damaged by harmful insects and diseases. In Giong Trom and Cho Lach Districts, severe losses have been caused by rice blast. The provincial agricultural and water conservancy services have sent specialized cadres to the grassroots units to help combat insects and drought. Cho Lach District has managed to save nearly 90 percent of its rice crop. Ban Tre city has saved 53 hectares from drought. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Feb 82 BK]

RICE INSECT INFESTATION, DISEASE--Rice blast has infested 20-30 percent of the rice crop in Nghe Tinh, Thai Binh and Binh Tri Thien Province. Brown planthoppers and rice leaf beetles have also appeared in many areas with a density of 5-50 insects per square meter. In the days to come these insect infestations and diseases can cause widespread and heavy damage to rice which stools rapidly. The Ministry of Agriculture reminds the provinces and municipalities of the north to regularly inspect the fields and take timely measures to prevent and eradicate insects and diseases in order to protect the rice. [Text] [Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 25 Feb 82 p 4]

CSO: 5400/5904

BRIEFS

ARMY-WORM SPREADS--Recent army-worm outbreaks have been reported in Victoria and Matabeleland South provinces, the head of the entomology section of the Research and Specialist Department, Dr Shadrack Mlambo, said yesterday. He said reports from Sengwe said up to 300 ha were affected and something like 600 sq m were affected in Gwanda. Local staff had been told to get in touch with Agritex spray teams to attend to the outbreak. Vulnerable at this stage would be young late plantings. "It would appear that perhaps the south-western areas can still expect some minor outbreaks," said Dr Mlambo. "The warm and moist weather conditions are still fairly suitable for breeding." [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 10 Mar 82 p 1]

CSO: 5400/5902

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April 7, 1982